

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02378 190918Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-13
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----191016 110824 /14

R 190825Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4360
DIA WASHDC
INFO USMISSION NATO
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2378

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, US, PARM, MILI, UR
SUBJECT: USTINOV DENIES WP MILITARY BUILD-UP AND CALLS FOR ARMS
CONTROL AND SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH

1. SUMMARY: POLITBURO MEMBER AND DEFENSE MINISTER, MARSHAL
D.F. USTINOV HAS WRITTEN AN ARTICLE FOR THE THIRD ISSUE OF
KOMMUNIST WHICH CONDEMNS NATO'S CURRENT ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN,
DENIES ANY NUMERICAL BUILD-UP IN WARSAW PACT MILITARY
STRENGTH OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND ACCUSES THE US OF
NOT HAVING GIVEN UP ITS QUEST FOR MILITARY SUPERIORITY.
THE SOVIET UNION, HE CLAIMS, HAS NEVER SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE
SUPERIORITY. ALTHOUGH IT IS FULLY CAPABLE OF MATCHING
AMERICAN MILITARY EFFORTS, IT DOES NOT WISH TO DO SO,
HE ASSERTS, PREFERRING INSTEAD ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AND
MUTUAL US-SOVIET RESTRAINT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW
WEAPONS SYSTEMS. USTINOV, ALSO WARNS THAT IN THE FACE OF
IMPERIALIST AGRESSIVENESS, THE SOCIALIT STATES WILL
MAINTAIN THEIR CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND PREPAREDNESS TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02378 190918Z

REPULSE ANY AGGRESSION. THE APPEARANCE OF USTINOV'S
ARTICLE IS NOT UNEXPECTED SINCE SUCH COMMENTARIES BY
EITHER THE DEFENSE MINISTER OF CHIEF OF THE GENERAL
STAFF HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED ANNUALLY IN KOMMUNIST OVER
THE PAST FEW YEARS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS HARSH TONE REGARDING
WESTERN ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS AND EXPLICIT CLAIMS THAT THE
SOVIET UNION HAS NOT BUILT UP ITS FORCES IN RECENT

YEARS AND DOES NOT SEEK MILITARY SUPERIORITY ARE NOTEWORTHY. HIS ARGUMENTS IN THIS REGARD ECHO THOSE VOICED BY IUSAC DIRECTOR ARBATOV IN HIS 5 FEB ARTICLE IN PRAVDA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON 17 FEB THE TASS ENGLISH WIRE CARRIED LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE BY MARSHAL D.F. USTINOV THAT IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR IN THE THIRD ISSUE OF KOMMUNIST. WHILE THE FULL TEXT OF THE ARTICLE ITSELF IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, ITS MAJOR POINTS ARE REPORTED BY TASS ARE:

--STRONG CONDEMNATION OF WESTERN "CONCOCTIONS" THAT ACCUSE THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS WARSAW PACT ALLIES OF AN "EXCESSIVE BUILD-UP OF ARMAMENTS, VIGOROUS PREPARATIONS TO UNLEASH NUCLEAR WAR AND CREATION, FOR SOME SINISTER' PURPOSES, OF AN UNJUSTIFIABLY POWERFUL CIVIL DEFENSE," WHICH ARE BEING USED TO SUPPORT WESTERN AGGRESSIVE MILITARY PREPARATIONS.

-- EXPLICIT CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS REDUCING NOT INCREASING ITS DEFENSE SPENDING (RECENT SOVIET OFFICIAL "DEFENSE BUDGET" FIGURES ARE CITED TO SUPPORT THIS CONTENTION) AND THAT "OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS NEITHER THE SOVIET UNION NOR OTHER WARSAW PACT STATES HAVE INCREASED THEIR ARMED FORCES. THEIR NUMERICAL STRENGTH REMAINS UNCHANGED."

-- THE CHARGE THAT NATO STATES ARE MAKING "NOT ONLY QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR ARMIES BUT ARE INCREASING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02378 190918Z

THE QUANTITY OF WEAPONS AND CREATING NEW MILITARY UNITS".

- THE ACCUSATION THAT "MILITARISTIC CIRCLES" IN THE US "HAVE NOT YET GIVEN UP HOPE OF ACHIEVING MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER THE USSR BY CREATING NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION".

-- DENIAL THAT SOVIET UNION HAS EVER SOUGHT MILITARY SUPERIORITY FOR DELIVERING A FIRST STRIKE.

-- THE CLAIM THAT SOVIET TECHNOLOGY IS CAPABLE "WITHIN THE SHORTEST PERIOD OF TIME OF CREATING ANY TYPE OF WEAPONS", ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET UNION, "DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE SUCH A ROAD".

-- STRONG SUPPORT FOR ARMS LIMITATION INCLUDING SOVIET-US AGREEMENT TO REFRAIN FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

-- AFFIRMATION OF THE SOVIET INTENTION TO MAINTAIN THE

VIGILANCE AND PREPARADNESS AND CONSTANTLY STRENGTHEN ITS ARMED FORCES IN ORDER TO "DISCOURAGE RISK TAKING BY ITS ADVERSARIES". THE SOVIET UNION "SPENDS ON DEFENSE AS MUCH AS NECESSARY TO INSURE ITS RELIABLE DEFENSE".

3. THE APPEARANCE OF USTINOV'S ARTICLE IS CONSISTENT WITH RECENT SOVIET PRACTICE OF HAVING PIECES BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OR CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY IN KOMMUNISTS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS OUTSPOKEN REBUTTAL OF WESTERN CHARGES ABOUT THE GROWING SOVIET THREAT AND FLAT ASSERTIONS THAT THE WARSAW PACT HAS NOT INCREASED ITS FORCES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS NEVER STRIVEN FOR FIRST STRIKE SUPERIORITY ARE NOTEWORTHY. USTINOV'S GENERAL THRUST IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF G.A. ARBATOV'S ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN PRAVDA ON 5 FEB.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 02378 190918Z

4. FOR DIA ADMINISTRATIVE USE: 1. USSR (UR) 2. 6 901 0202 77 3. USTINOV DENIES WP MILITARY BUILD UP AND CALLS FOR ARMS CONTROL AND SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH.

4. OMIT 5. 770217 6. 770218 7. 770218 MOSCOW USSR

8. CIR: IA LA 9000, IV A LA (3)

9. C-3 10. USDAO MOSCOW USSR (AIRA/ARMA) 11. OMIT 12. EDWARD L. WARNER 111, MAJ, USAF, AAIRA WILLIAMS D. HALLORAN, MAJ, USA, AARMA 13. JAMES W. WOLD, BRIG GEN USAF, DEFENSE ATTACHE 14. TASS ENGLISH WIRE. 15. NON-DIRC GDS 31 DEC 83.

TOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW02378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0014
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770225/aaaaavmb.tel
Line Count: 153
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f95df2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3274880
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USTINOV DENIES WP MILITARY BUILD-UP AND CALLS FOR ARMS CONTROL AND SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MILI, US, UR, (USTINOV, D F)
To: STATE DIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f95df2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009